CROWN Memorandum

Memo Number: 02-0035-GN

TO: ESRD Executive Directors, ESRD Data Managers, Regional Project Officers

FROM: Matthew Leipold, Director, Division of ESRD Systems and Contract Management, Information Systems Group, OCSQ

DATE: December 16, 2002

SUBJECT: QualityNet Exchange Security

This memorandum is to provide assurances to the Network community that the QualityNet Exchange Web site is a secure environment for the exchange of files between the Networks and their providers. **QualityNet (QNet) Exchange is the only CMS-approved method for the electronic transmission of private data between healthcare providers and Networks.**

All files exchanged via QNet Exchange are encrypted (scrambled) before they leave the sender's computer, safeguarding all patient-level data from unintended recipients. All files are stored in this encrypted format until they are decrypted (unscrambled) at the time they are downloaded by the recipient. The tokens hold the key for the encryption/decryption of the data.

The QNet Exchange Web site meets and exceeds all current HIPPA requirements and has passed rigorous security testing by an external company. We are confident that you will be pleased with the ease and speed at which files can be exchanged securely and instantly with your providers.

We encourage the Networks to provide a copy of this CROWN Memo to their providers if they question transmitting patient level data over the Internet.